

7/21/04

**To: CINMS Advisory Council**

**From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative**

**Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 7/21/04**

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on July 21, 2004. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair (Environmental Defense Center); Greg Helms, Vice-Chair (The Ocean Conservancy); Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara), Kira Schmidt and Jessie Altstatt (SB Channelkeeper), Rick Skillin (Sierra Club). Guests: Chris Mobley, Sarah MacWilliams and Angela (CINMS), Shiva Polefka (EDC Research Fellow). Three public members were present.

## **I. INTRODUCTIONS**

The CWG members, guests and public member introduced themselves.

## **II. MARINE ACOUSTICS**

A draft report on marine acoustics was distributed in advance of the meeting. Shiva Polefka provided an update regarding the preparation of the report. He then summarized and explained the recommendations, which include Science and Research recommendations as well as Policy and Management Recommendations. Shiva will present a summary of the report and recommendations during the July 23 Acoustics Panel presentation to the Sanctuary Advisory Panel. The recommendations focus on partnering with other agencies and entities in researching technical and other means to reduce noise pollution in and near the Sanctuary. The recommendations also address the need for more background information regarding noise levels in the Sanctuary, and how such noise levels may impact marine wildlife resources. The full report is available on the CINMS web site.

During the discussion that followed Shiva's presentation, we talked about the possibility for the new SAC Science Panel to include experts in the areas of marine mammal and acoustic sciences. Chris also mentioned the potential for partnering with other marine sanctuaries on some of the research ideas.

## **III. FEDERAL MARINE RESERVES**

Chris provided an update on the federal marine reserves process, and reported on the meeting with the PPMC Science and Statistical Committee. The CINMS is continuing to work on the preliminary assessment and draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), especially in the areas

of analyzing the alternatives and identifying baseline conditions (ecological, stocks, and economic). Chris also provided an update regarding the timeline for completing review of the preliminary assessment. The SAC is still expected to provide input in September, but the PFMC may not complete its review until November. The CINMS is trying to encourage coordination between the two Councils. Greg Helms reported that his organization will be reaching out to other conservation groups in an attempt to generate support for marine reserves. Finally, Linda focused the group on the scope of alternatives that will be analyzed in the EIS, and suggested that the CWG may consider developing its own alternative based on the Science Advisory Panel input and our scoping comments.

#### **IV. MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Sarah provided a report regarding the status of the Management Plan Update. The CINMS staff will meet with the National Sanctuary Program in August, and then forward the draft Plan and EIS up the NOAA chain of command. Hopefully, the draft documents will be released to the public in September. In addition, a final report on the Biogeographic Study is expected soon.

#### **V. WATER QUALITY**

Shiva and EDC Bren School intern Sara Polgar continue to work on a Water Quality Needs Assessment that addresses sources & threats; research & monitoring, regulations, and outreach & education. They are interviewing staff from various local, state and federal agencies and organizations. The project will continue through the summer. Chris and Sarah announced that a water quality staff person will be hired soon for the west coast region of the Sanctuary program.

#### **VI. OTHER CINMS ADV. COUNCIL UPDATES**

Linda announced that there are open seats on the Sanctuary Advisory Council for Tourism, Research, and Commercial Fishing Alternate. Sarah encouraged interested persons to apply immediately.

Chris announced that CINMS staff has been meeting with Channel Islands National Park staff regarding their respective management planning processes.